



Decent Work for All

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Queen of Spain reviews development projects

By Minette Rimando, Senior Communication and Public Information Assistant

Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain visited the Philippines to review Spanish-funded development projects that have helped thousands of disadvantaged youth and indigenous peoples towards better lives.

One of the development cooperation projects is the MDG Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth which has assisted more than 10,000 Filipino youth by increasing access to employment through improved policy coherence and provision of direct services such as education scholarships to stay in school, technical vocational skills training with enhanced modules on gender and lifeskills complemented with On-the-Job Training, entrepreneurship skills training with the provision of starter kits, strengthen capacities on Local Economic Development, and improve local employment services in four of the poorest provinces namely Antique, Masbate, Agusan Del Sur and Maguindanao.

The joint programme has contributed to increasing employability of young people, reduce drop-out rates, enhance the capacity of teachers, school supervisors

and local governments, and establish local employment and one-stop-shop resource centres for youth and migrants. It has also strengthened the campaign against illegal recruitment, trafficking, and irregular migration in the four pilot provinces.

The ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Philippine Government with the Department of Labor and Employment as lead implementing partner, has been working together under the joint programme.

The other project, the The Indigenous Peoples Development Programme (IPDP): Caraga, Philippines, discussed during the Queen's visit has enabled a community of indigenous peoples to set up its own enterprise producing organic flour. Members of the Manobo tribe in Veruela and Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, through their own business organization called the Kayumbyahan Sago Manobo Corporation (KASAMACOR), now run a sago palm flour business and the organic flour produced could be the first of its kind

Director Johnson presents Spanish-funded projects on disadvantaged youth and indigenous peoples to Her Majesty Queen Sofia. (Photo by ILO/Minette Rimando)

in Asia. The flour is used to make cookies, bread, noodles and ice cream cones, among others. The project has also produced other benefits such as creating jobs for the indigenous peoples and increasing their incomes. It has also reduced reliance on imported wheat flour and improved food security.

During the project presentation, Queen Sofia expressed her concern about the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability while promoting better livelihoods for indigenous peoples. A 2011 feasibility study found that the sago palm can help preserve the ozone layer by acting as a carbon sink and that Sago palm by nature has efficient self-regenerating characteristics through its ability to produce several suckers after it dies or is harvested. Moreover, as the enterprise generated income, the Manobo people are now planting more sago palm trees thereby increasing the sago palm stands in their ancestral domain.

Queen Sofia's visit took place from 2 to 6 July 2012.

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Improving delivery of entrepreneurship training to disadvantaged youth

By Roche Angon, MDG Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth Project Coordinator

Trainers of ILO's entrepreneurship programme, Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), shared their experiences in training disadvantaged youth in Masbate, Antique, Maguindanao and Agusan del Sur, during the Refresher Workshop for Master Trainers and Trainers of SIYB in May 2012.

This workshop, supported by the MDG Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth through the International Labour Organization (ILO), aimed to enhance the capacity of trainers from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (TESDA-ARMM), in delivering entrepreneurship training to disadvantaged youth.

During the workshop, the trainers discussed how they may further market SIYB as a training product and considered proper selection of partner organizations and of trainees, developing appropriate materials and providing after-training support. These strategies will help improve subsequent entrepreneurship training programmes for the disadvantaged youth, even beyond the completion of the Joint Programme in July 2012.

The refresher workshop on SIYB, first to be held in the Philippines, was designed by the Joint Programme to help institutionalize the programme in the country through its project partners as well as the national and local government.

The Joint Programme promotes entrepreneurship as a career option and as a priority for addressing challenges to youth employment.

“Vulnerably employed youth often lack the education that many of the youth unemployed have been able to obtain. These youth are often left with little choice but to accept or even create whatever forms of work they can find, just so they and their loved ones can survive another day”, said Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of ILO Country Office for the Philippines, in his opening message during the workshop.

Together with the DOLE and TESDA-ARMM and in partnership with the private sector and relevant government agencies, the Joint Programme has so far trained 290 out of 400 targeted youth on entrepreneurship. It has also provided 159 out of 240 targeted youths with starter kits to establish individual or group-based microenterprises based on successful business plans. A starter kit is comprised of basic tools and materials to start a microenterprise. A total of 76 out of 96 target youth have set up microenterprises. Meanwhile, 88 representatives of local partner organizations, i.e. DOLE and TESDA-ARMM the four pilot provinces, can now train youths on SIYB as well as assessing their entrepreneurship potentials.

DOLE and TESDA-ARMM have committed to sustain entrepreneurship training programmes to disadvantaged youth beyond the four pilot provinces of the Joint Programme, such as in other areas of the CARAGA region. They will also monitor the assisted micro enterprises as well as continue with counselling and mentoring of young people through the local trainers.

Queen of Spain *(Continued from page 1)*

“The Crown, the Government and the people of Spain see the Philippines not only as a sister country with whom we share many historical, social and cultural links because of our common past, but also as a key partner in Asia to whose development we are fully committed,” said Queen Sofia.

Spain and the Philippines are among the countries facing challenges on youth unemployment. According to the April 2012 Philippine Labor Force Survey there were 1.45 million unemployed youth aged 15-24 in the country. However, Queen Sofia raised vulnerable employment as an issue of concern and its link with poverty. In the Philippines, there were 2.27 million vulnerably employed youth in 2010.

Unemployment and vulnerable employment also affect indigenous peoples when they leave their traditional communities in order to look for work to survive. Indigenous peoples often find themselves in vulnerable employment and social situations.

“These projects are helping to ensure that the Filipino youth and indigenous peoples are part of people and job-centred growth. These initiatives, in partnership with the Government of Spain contribute to the Philippines goal of achieving inclusive, sustained and greener growth through decent and productive work,” said Director Lawrence Jeff Johnson of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines.

Must reads



Instituting CHANGE in the workplace

The workplace is an ideal setting to carry out health promotion programmes. Recognizing the interrelatedness of unhealthy habits and risky behaviour, the enterprise response must use a comprehensive approach to achieve positive results.
<http://www.ilo.org/manila>

3-10 August 2012

6-10 August 2012

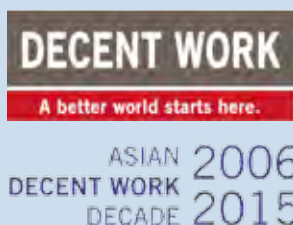
29-31 August 2012

Calendar

United Nations Photo Exhibit on Indigenous Women
SM North Edsa, Quezon City

Training on Entrepreneurship Development for TESDA
Davao

Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference
Surabaya, Indonesia



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